## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention describes an industrially advantageous process to prepare highly pure 1-Methyl-3-phenylpiperazine of Formula I

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$$\bigcap_{N}^{H} C_6H_5$$
 Formula I

that makes use of a novel piperazine derivative, 4-Benzyl-1-methyl-2-oxo-3-phenylpiperazine, represented by Formula II

$$C_6H_5$$
 $C_6H_5$ 
Formula II

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1-Methyl-3-phenylpiperazine is a useful intermediate in the preparation of antidepressant Mirtazapine.